

## CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:

a lighting determination unit configured to  
determine whether or not a light emitting unit emits  
5 light on the basis of a brightness of an object to be  
photographed;

an area detection unit configured to extract an  
outline of a captured image of the object that receives  
light emitted by the light emitting unit, and to detect  
10 an area occupied by a predetermined shape in the  
captured image; and

a control unit configured to control an image  
capturing operation to obtain a captured image for the  
purpose of saving, on the basis of information in the  
15 area detected by said area detection unit.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of face of a  
person.

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3. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:

an area detection unit configured to extract an  
outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission,  
and to detect an area occupied by a predetermined shape  
25 in the captured image;

a light control area setting unit configured to  
set a light control area of a light emitting unit in

the captured image in accordance with the area detected by said area detection unit;

an arithmetic unit configured to calculate a main light emitting amount in accordance with a photometry value based on the pre-light emission in the light control area; and

a control unit configured to control to photograph an image by controlling the light emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting amount calculated by said arithmetic unit.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of a person.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a focusing unit configured to measure a distance to an object to be photographed, and wherein said light control area setting unit sets the light control area in accordance with the distance measured by said focusing unit, and the area detected by said area detection unit.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein an irradiation light amount upon the pre-light emission is adjusted on the basis of the distance measured by said

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said area detection unit and sets the adjusted area as a light control area.

10. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
5 distance is adjusted based on a focusing position of a lens.

11. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:  
an area detection unit configured to extract an  
10 outline of a captured image of an object to be  
photographed that receives light emitted by a light  
emitting unit, and to detect an area occupied by a  
predetermined shape in the captured image; and  
a control unit configured to determine whether or  
15 not the light emitting unit emits light based on a  
brightness of the object, and to control an image  
capturing operation to obtain a captured image for the  
purpose of saving on the basis of information in the  
area detected by said area detection unit.

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12. (Amended) An image capturing apparatus comprising:  
an area detection unit configured to extract an  
outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission,  
and to detect an area occupied by a predetermined shape  
25 in the captured image; and  
a control unit configured to set a light control  
area of a light emitting unit in the captured image in

accordance with the area detected by said area  
detection unit, to calculate a main light emitting  
amount in accordance with a photometry value based on  
the pre-light emission in the light control area, and  
5 to photograph an image by controlling the light  
emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting  
amount.

13. (Amended) A method of controlling an image capturing  
10 apparatus, comprising:

a lighting determination step of determining  
whether or not a light emitting unit emits light on the  
basis of a brightness of an object to be photographed;  
an area detection step of extracting an outline  
15 of a captured image of the object that receives light  
emitted by the light emitting unit, and detecting an  
area occupied by a predetermined shape in the captured  
image; and

a control step of controlling an image capturing  
20 operation to obtain a captured image for the purpose of  
saving on the basis of information in the area detected  
in said area detection step.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the  
25 predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of  
a person.

15. (Amended) A method of controlling an image capturing apparatus, comprising:

an area detection step of extracting an outline of a captured image based on pre-light emission, and  
5 detecting an area occupied by a predetermined shape in the captured image;

a light control area setting step of setting a light control area of a light emitting unit in the captured image in accordance with the area detected in  
10 said area detection step;

an arithmetic step of calculating a main light emitting amount in accordance with a photometry value based on the pre-light emission in the light control area; and

15 a control step of controlling to photograph an image by controlling the light emitting unit on the basis of the main light emitting amount calculated in the arithmetic step.

20 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined shape corresponds to a shape of a face of a person.

17. The method according to claim 15, further  
25 comprising a focusing step of measuring a distance to an object to be photographed, and wherein the light control area setting step includes a step of setting